



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Jeff Laugero
District Attorney

Assistant District Attorney
Mark Zahner

Chief Deputies
Marlisa Ferreira
Wendell Emerson
Michael D. Houston
Rick Mury
Joseph Chavez

Bureau of Investigation
Chief Terry L. Seese

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 7, 2025
Re: Carlos Enrique Mateo
Convicted Murderer Denied Parole

For More Information Contact:

Wendell Emerson, Public Information Liaison
Phone (209) 525-5509

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Carlos Enrique Mateo, age 29, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a December 27, 2024, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Salinas Valley State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Amy Elliott Neumann appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People and argued against Mateo’s release.

On July 11, 2010, Mateo was renting a room in a house with his brother. Mateo and his brother returned home late that night after partying, and they were making a lot of noise. Michael Chandler was also staying at the house, and he complained to Mateo and his brother about the noise they were making. Mateo went into his room, retrieved a gun and then went to his dresser and loaded the gun. Mateo walked up to Mr. Chandler, who was on the couch in the living room, and he shot him in the head. Mr. Chandler was not armed. Mateo did not call for help and ran from the home. Mr. Chandler staggered to the police station nearby for help and died from the gunshot wound.

Mateo pled no contest to manslaughter and was sentenced to the upper term of 11 years, plus an additional 10 years for use of a firearm. Mateo was 15 years old at the time of the murder and had already been adjudicated for battery on a person, gang activity, and vandalism.

While in prison, Mateo and two other inmates attacked and injured a fellow inmate with an inmate manufactured shank. Mateo was convicted of assault. He was sentenced to an additional four years for the attack.

While the Board was required to give considerable weight to youthful offender considerations, the Board found that Mateo has not shown the maturity needed to warrant release. The Board found that Mateo still presented a current danger to public safety because of his four rule violations for possession of a cell phone. The last violation occurred in August 2024. The Board found that Mateo’s institutional behavior was an aggravating factor and indicated that he still engages in criminal thinking and behavior. Cell phone possession is a serious rule violation because it poses a danger to the institution and allows inmates to continue criminal activity outside the prison walls.

The Board agreed with Prosecutor Neumann that the minimum length of denial was not appropriate given Mateo's entrenched criminal thinking. The Board denied parole for seven years.

This was Mateo's first parole hearing.

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